

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): A structured particulate system comprising at least one active, organic solid food additive incorporated in a matrix which forms a network completely incorporating said active, organic solid food additive in a weight ratio of 1:99 of ~~said solid additive~~ to 99:1 of said solid additive to said matrix, the mean weight diameter of the particles of said structured system ranging from 25 to 1500 microns and the system displaying a loose bulk density of 0.1 to 1.1 Kg/l, the active, organic solid additive being selected from the group consisting of oleanoic acid, ursolic acid, folic acid, policosanol and phytosterols.

Claim 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (previously presented): The structured particulate system of claim 13 wherein the system displays a loose bulk density of 0.3 to 0.6 Kg/l.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The structured particulate system of claim 13 wherein the mean weight diameter ranges from 50 to 400 microns.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The structured particulate system of claim 16 wherein the mean weight diameter ranges from 60 to 300 microns.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The structured particulate system of claim 13 wherein the weight ratio between active additive and matrix ranges from 80:20 to 20:80.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The structured particulate system of claim 13 wherein the weight ratio between active additive and matrix ranges from 60:40 to 40:60.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The structured particulate system of claim 13 wherein the active, organic solid additive has a discrete particle size within the total structured particulate system of 2 to 275 microns.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The structured particulate system of claim 13 wherein the active, organic solid additive has a discrete particle size within the total structured particulate system of 5 to 250 microns.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The structured particulate system of claim 13 wherein the active, organic solid additive has a discrete particle size within the total structured particulate system of 7 to 200 microns.

Claim 23 (cancelled)

Claim 24 (previously presented): The structured particulate system of claim 13 wherein the additive improves the oral properties of a food product, or the system improves the dispersability of the additive in a food.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The structured particulate system of claim 13 wherein the matrix is edible and is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, modified polysaccharides, sugars, gums, thickeners, stabilisers, syrups, flours, starches, dextrose, maltodextrins and celluloses.

Claim 26 (currently amended): Method for improving at least one property selected from the oral properties of a food product and the homogeneity of an organic solid active component in a food product, which comprises incorporating in the food product an effective amount of a structured particulate system comprising at least one active, organic solid food additive incorporated in a matrix which forms a network completely incorporating said active, organic solid food additive in a weight ratio of 1:99 ~~of said solid additive~~ to 99:1 of said solid additive to said matrix, the mean weight diameter of the particles of said structured system ranging from 25 to 1500 microns and the system displaying a loose bulk density of 0.1 to 1.1 Kg/l.

Claim 27 (currently amended): Method for improving at least one property selected from the oral properties of a food product and the homogeneity of an organic solid active component in a food product, which comprises incorporating in the food product from 0.01 to 50 wt %, based on the food product of a structured particulate system comprising at least one active, organic solid food additive incorporated in a matrix which forms a network completely incorporating said active, organic solid food additive in a weight ratio of 1:99 ~~of said solid additive~~ to 99:1 of said solid additive to said matrix, the mean weight diameter of the particles of said structured system ranging from 25 to 1500 microns and the system displaying a loose bulk density of 0.1 to 1.1 Kg/l.

Claim 28 (previously presented): Method for improving at least one property selected from the oral properties of a food product and the homogeneity of an organic solid active component in a food product, which comprises incorporating in the food product from 1 to 30 wt %, based on the food product of the structured particulate system of claim 13.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A food product selected from the group consisting of margarine, spreads, baked goods, extruded goods, confections, ice-creams and dairy products containing an effective amount of a structured particulate system comprising at least one active, organic solid food additive incorporated in a matrix which forms a network completely incorporating said active, organic solid food additive in a weight ratio of 1:99 ~~of said solid additive~~ to 99:1 of said solid additive to said matrix, the mean weight diameter of the particles of said structured system ranging from 25 to 1500 microns and the system displaying a loose bulk density of 0.1 to 1.1 Kg/l.

Claim 30 (currently amended): Process for preparing a structured particulate system comprising at least one active, organic solid food additive incorporated in a matrix which forms a network completely incorporating said active, organic solid food additive in a weight ratio of 1:99 ~~of said solid additive~~ to 99:1 of said solid additive to said matrix, the mean weight diameter of the particles of said structured system ranging from 25 to 1500 microns and the system displaying a loose bulk density of 0.1 to 1.1 Kg/l which comprises:

- (i) mixing a solid organic active food additive with a matrix into a homogeneous powder;
- (ii) adding a solvent to part of the powder obtained to dissolve the matrix resulting in a suspension of the active additive in solvent;
- (iii) suspending part of the powder resulting from step (i) in an expansion chamber of a fluid bed; and
- (iv) spraying the suspension resulting from (ii) onto the suspended powder of step (iii) in the expansion chamber and drying rapidly by a heating medium.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The process of claim 30 wherein the solvent added to step (ii) is water and the heating medium of step (iv) is heated air.